



CITY OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS

#1 GARY K. ANDERSON PLAZA

DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62523-1196

Call to Artists: Electrical Box Project

City of Decatur, Illinois

Submittal Deadline: Friday, July 8, 2016

THE PROJECT

- The City of Decatur invites artists residing in Macon County to apply for a public art project to create art to be installed as “wraps” on electrical boxes located throughout Decatur. The City may work with the Decatur Area Arts Council Public Arts Committee on this project with the goal of the project being to use local electrical boxes as “canvases” to promote the Decatur Community.
- Dimensions of the boxes are generally 56” H x 44” W x 26” D. Art should cover all exposed sides and top of the box. Designs should take into consideration that boxes will be visible for short glimpses by passing vehicles and some will have more pedestrian traffic than others.

LOCATIONS

A minimum of five (5) boxes will be selected in 2016 for artwork in this multi-year project by the City of Decatur, in conjunction with the Decatur Area Arts Council Public Art Committee.

2016 locations include:

1. South Park Street and Water Street (Southeast Corner)
2. 259 S. Park St. (South Side)
3. Franklin St. and South Park St. (In Central Park)
4. North Park St. and Franklin St.
5. Prairie and Merchant (Northwest Corner)

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

- The project is open to artists residing in Macon County. All eligible applicants, regardless of race, sex, religion, nationality, origin or disability, will be considered.
- In an effort to compile a diverse collection of artwork and artists, individuals will be awarded no more than two (2) commissions in a twenty-four (24) month period.

ARTIST'S AWARD

- The artist's stipend for each design selected will be \$100.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS



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- Successful proposals will foster community pride. When designing your artwork, think of the relevance of the image to the project site and its users (pedestrians, commuters, and neighborhood citizens). Consider what makes Decatur unique: the arts, history, music, community events, recreational opportunities, and special attractions, among other categories that will encourage pride in the Decatur community.
- Artists should understand that the finished work will be on functioning equipment that will need repair or replacing at some point in time. As such, the City of Decatur cannot guarantee how long each box will be in use though estimates are approximately seven years, assuming no unexpected damage occurs, such as a car accident.

MATERIALS and INSTALLATION

- A high-resolution digital file of each selected design will be supplied by the artist to be printed and installed by the vendor selected by the City of Decatur.
- The City of Decatur shall be responsible for the cost of design installation and maintenance of the selected boxes with vendors required to meet all City insurance, bonding and regulatory requirements.

APPLICATION PROCESS & DESIGN CRITERIA

- Artwork **MUST BE ORIGINAL** and **MAY NOT** be work that has been sold or reproduced in any way.
- Use the template provided to propose a design concept. **NOTE:** changes to design proportions may be required to accommodate site requirements.
- Design **MUST** include all visible **SIDES** and **TOP** of the box.
- Designs **MUST NOT** contain any representations of traffic lights, signs or signals.
- If the design is to include text, it may **ONLY** be used as an artistic element in the design. Boxes **MAY NOT** be used for advertisement or to promote a business, product or viewpoint.
- Designs **MAY NOT** include any breach of intellectual property, trademarks, brands, images of illegal activity or involve the attachment of any object(s) to the box.
- Because this program aims to deter graffiti vandalism, designs should not mimic or take the style of graffiti.
- The finished artwork will be in the public domain and therefore may be subject to vandalism. Accordingly artists should be thoughtful about having large open areas in the design -- for example, large areas of a single color might give a vandal the perfect spot to deface the work.

THE SELECTION PROCESS



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- Final selections will be made by the City of Decatur. The city may work with the Decatur Area Arts Council Public Art Committee, made up of artists, arts professionals, and community representatives, to review submissions on the basis of artistic and technical merit, as well as relevance of proposed design.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

- To be considered, artists must submit application materials electronically to arts4all@decaturarts.org. Submissions shall include:
 1. Design (as close to finished as possible) and brief artist narrative. The narrative should convey the artistic intent, style of work, etc.
 2. Current resume detailing your experience as an artist and any past public art projects. NOTE: Additional support materials may be submitted that relate to the artist's past public art experience.
 3. Examples of other works and/or reviews of similar work are welcome.
- Artists may submit up to 3 (three) design proposals.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- Friday, July 8 - Submission deadline
 - Complete applications must be received by 5:00 p.m.
- Week of July 11, 2016 – Works reviewed by committee and approved by City
- Week of July 18, 2016 - Selections announced

INFORMATION / QUESTIONS

All information, including application materials, is available at www.decaturlil.gov or in the City of Decatur's Department of Development Services, 1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza, Decatur, IL 62523.

Questions related to this proposal may be directed to Assistant City Manager Billy Tyus at 217-424-2727 or btyus@decaturlil.gov or to Jerry Johnson, Executive Director of the Decatur Area Arts Council at jerry@decaturarts.org or 217-423-3189.

RESERVATION RIGHTS

The City of Decatur reserves the right at any time to supplement, amend or otherwise modify this solicitation and to request additional or supplemental information or proposals from any or all participating artists. In addition, the City reserves the right to accept or reject, any or all proposals or any part thereof submitted in connection with this solicitation; to waive any defect or technicality; and to advertise for new proposals where the acceptance, rejection waiver, or advertisement would be in the best interests of the City. The City also reserves the right to negotiate unacceptable provisions incorporated within an otherwise acceptable proposal. A proposal which is incomplete, unclear, conditional or which contains irregularities of any kind, may be rejected without evaluation.



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Failure to comply with proposal requirements described in the prospectus will constitute an invalid application.

DESIGN TEMPLATE

This is a diagram of a typical utility box showing four sides and the top. USE THIS TEMPLATE AS A GUIDE. Please be prepared to adjust your artwork to fit the box you are assigned. Thank you for your flexibility.



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	SIDE
TOP	FRONT
	SIDE